

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are presently pending in this application, Claim 3 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 3 was objected to because of informality; and Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Baba et al. (U.S. Patent 6,085,598).

In response to the objection of Claim 3, the noted informality has been corrected herein

Briefly, Claim 1 of the present invention is directed to a mounting structure for a vehicle electrical connection box, including a protruding member provided to a box body of the electrical connection box and positioned to receive an impact from a first direction, and at least one breakable mounting member mounting the box body to a part of a vehicle, the at least one breakable mounting member positioned to break due to a stress generated by the impact received by the protruding member. By providing such a protruding member and positioning the breakable mounting member as such, the impact from the first direction causes a stress concentrated at the breakable mounting member, thereby causing a shearing stress to break the breakable mounting member rather than the box body. As a result, damage to the vehicle electrical connection box is minimized or significantly reduced and the circuit inside the vehicle electrical connection box is protected effectively.¹

The outstanding Office Action asserts that Baba et al. disclose a mounting structure for a vehicle electrical connection box as recited in Claim 1. Nevertheless, it is respectfully

¹ Specification, page 8, lines 18-25.

submitted that Baba et al. do not teach “at least one breakable mounting member mounting the box body to a part of a vehicle, the at least one breakable mounting member positioned to break due to a stress generated by the impact received by the protruding member” as recited in Claim 1. On the other hand, Baba et al. disclose a pressure sensor device having the connector 11 for connecting an outside connector to the terminals 10 for conducting electrical signals from the sensor element 15, not a protruding member positioned to receive an impact from a certain direction.² Furthermore, according to Baba et al., the connecting member 21 is made simply more easily breakable than the inlet port 3, thereby allowing the connecting member to break off before the inlet port breaks when a certain impact is exerted on the sensor portion 2,³ not a protruding member positioned to receive an impact from a certain direction. Therefore, the structure recited in Claim 1 is believed to be clearly distinguishable from Baba et al. and thus is not anticipated thereby.

Likewise, independent Claim 2 includes subject matter substantially similar to what is recited in Claim 1 to the extent discussed above. Thus, the structure recited in Claim 2 is also believed to be distinguishable from Baba et al.

Turning to Claim 3, Claim 3 is directed to a mounting structure for a vehicle electrical connection box having a box body comprising at least two breakable planar mounting members mounting the box body to a part of a vehicle, extending substantially along a first plane and diagonally positioned to break after the box body receive an impact in a direction substantially parallel to the first plane.

Baba et al. disclose a pressure sensor device having breakable mounting member, but do not teach *at least two breakable planar mounting members mounting the box body to a*

² Baba et al., column 4, lines 23-27.

³ Id., column 4, line 64, to column 5, line 1.

part of a vehicle, extending substantially along a first plane and diagonally positioned to break after the box body receive an impact in a direction substantially parallel to the first plane. Specifically, Baba et al. simply disclose the breakable connecting member 21 discussed above and the pair of stubs 24 which is inserted in the arcuate opening 32 for securing the bracket 30 to the cover 20. Thus, the structure recited in amended Claim 3 is believed to be distinguishable for Baba et al. and thus is not anticipated thereby.

For the foregoing reasons, Claims 1-3 are believed to be allowable. Furthermore, since Claims 4-10 ultimately depend from one of Claims 1-3, substantially the same arguments set forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Hence, Claims 4-10 are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

--3. (Twice Amended) A mounting structure for a vehicle electrical connection box having a box body comprising at least two breakable planar mounting members mounting the box body to a part of a vehicle, extending substantially along a first plane and diagonally positioned to break after the box body [receive] receives an impact in a direction substantially parallel to the first plane.--